

Permanent Protection for Florida Act

I don't have to tell you that Florida's unspoiled beaches and unique ecosystem make our state one of the world's most desirable places to visit—and to live. That's why I've teamed up with Senator Martinez on historic legislation to permanently protect Florida's environment from the threat of offshore drilling.

The Permanent Protection for Florida Act [S. 2239](#) provides lasting protections from drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. We can no longer rely on temporary moratoriums to protect our coast, and we are further threatened by a recently published Department of Interior plan that would shift underwater sea boundaries and put waters off Florida under the control of the pro-drilling state of Louisiana.

Our bipartisan bill would create a permanent no-drilling zone at least 260 miles offshore in much of the eastern Gulf. And off Pensacola and Florida's East Coast, the no-drilling zone would extend out to 150 miles offshore.

The bill is supported by the Florida Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), Audubon, The National Defense Resources Council, and Richard Charter, co-chair of the National Outer Continental Shelf Coalition. As Mark Ferrulo, director of Florida PIRG said, "This legislation would greatly expand Florida's protections against offshore drilling. The state's world-famous coastline would be protected for millions of Floridians and visitors far into the future."